

WDOAP-5378

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3/18/46

Honorable Arthur S. Flemming
United States Civil Service Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Flemming:

Thank you for your courtesy in extending to representatives of my office the privilege of discussing with you the problems associated with the employment of civilian personnel essential to the successful operation of the Central Intelligence Group, War Department. The Central Intelligence Group, War Department is the organizational entity established to provide for War Department contribution to the Central Intelligence Group organized under the Director of Central Intelligence. The Department very much appreciates your ready acceptance of the need for these operations to be placed under the provisions of Schedule A of Civil Service Rules.

The Central Intelligence Group, War Department is at present composed of two major segments. The larger of the two segments is the Strategic Services Unit; that portion of the former Office, Strategic Services transferred by Executive Order to the War Department for the dual purpose of liquidation and maintenance of function. The smaller of the two segments is that group of positions assigned directly to the Director of Central Intelligence for staffing of the central administration of the Central Intelligence Group. Navy Department and State Department are also assigning positions to the Director of Central Intelligence for this purpose.

The Strategic Services Unit will continue to liquidate in accord with commitments previously made. However, a new organization will be formed within the Central Intelligence Group, War Department which will be directed toward maintenance of such functions of the Strategic Service Unit as may be required by the War Department in association with the Director of Central Intelligence.

It is the desire of the War Department to place under the provisions of Schedule A all positions concerned with the staffing of the

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central administration of the Central Intelligence Group and all positions established in the new organization created to maintain certain functions of Strategic Services Unit. Clearly exempted from Schedule A will be those positions associated with the continued liquidation of Strategic Services Unit.

It is a further desire of the War Department to maintain a close and understanding liaison with the Commission during the concluding period of liquidation of Strategic Services Unit in order that, through joint effort, the planned program of liquidation and maintenance of function may proceed expeditiously.

The Civil Service Commission is hereby requested to extend to the War Department the authority necessary to the establishment of positions and the employment of personnel, under Schedule A of Civil Service Rules, necessary to the staffing of those areas within the Central Intelligence Group, War Department as indicated herein.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of War.